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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

No. XXVII.

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TESTIMONIES AGAINST WAR.

OF STATESMEN.—No. I.

WE quoted long ago some striking concessions from warriors themselves against their own trade of blood; but statesmen, more enlightened and humane, accustomed to take larger and juster views of the public weal, and more familiar with the virtues and blessings of peace, are more generally and more decidedly opposed to the custom of war.

Even MACHIAVEL, whose name long ago became synonymous with political chicanery, condemns the practice in very pointed terms. “War, being a profession by which men cannot live honorably at all times, is not,” he says, “to be taken up as a trade, except by a commonwealth or a kingdom; and, if they be well constituted, they will neither of them suffer any of their citizens or subjects, or any other good man, to make it his business. He can never be thought a good man, who takes upon himself an employment by which, if he would ever reap any profit, he is *obliged* to be false, and rapacious, and cruel, and to entertain several other qualities which are not consistent in a good man. Nor can any man, great or small, who makes war his profession, be otherwise than vicious. Have you not a proverb which confirms what I say, that *war makes villains, and peace brings them to the gallows?* Rome, while it was well governed, had never any soldier who made it his profession to be so; and hence few of them were dissolute.”*

“War,” said LORD BURLEIGH, “is the curse, and peace

* As quoted by Thrush, in his *Observations on War*.

the blessing, of a country. A realm gaineth more by one year's peace than by ten years' war."

LORD CLARENDON, the great historian of his own age, and eminent as a statesman and philosopher, is very full and decided in his reprobation of war. "Of all the punishments and judgments which the provoked anger of the Divine Providence can pour out upon a nation full of transgressions, there is none so terrible and destroying as war. It is a depopulation, defaces all that art and industry hath produced, destroys all plantations, burns churches and palaces, and mingles them in the same ashes with the cottages of the peasant and the laborer. It distinguishes not of age, or sex, or dignity, but exposes all things and persons, sacred and profane, to the same contempt and confusion, and reduces all that blessed order and harmony, which hath been the product of peace and religion, into the chaos it was first in."

"A whole city on fire is a spectacle full of horror; but a whole kingdom on fire must be a prospect much more terrible. And such is every kingdom in war, where nothing flourishes but rapine, blood and murder. We cannot make a more lively representation and emblem to ourselves of hell, than by the view of a kingdom in war."

"It was a very proper answer to him who asked *why any man should be delighted with beauty?* that it was a question which none but a blind man could ask. Nor can any man ask how or why men come to be delighted with peace, but he who is without natural bowels, who is deprived of all those affections which can only make life pleasant."

"No kingdom can flourish or be at ease, in which there is no peace. It is only this which makes men dwell at home, and enjoy the labor of their own hands, and improve all the advantages which the air, and the climate, and the soil administer to them, and all which yield no comfort where there is no peace. God himself reckons peace the greatest comfort and ornament he can confer upon states."

"A greater curse cannot beset the most wicked nation, than to be deprived of peace. There is nothing of real and substantial comfort in this world, but what is the product of peace; and whatsoever we may lawfully and innocently take delight in, is the fruit and effect of peace."

"War breaks all that order, interrupts all that devotion, and even extinguisheth all that zeal, which peace had kindled in us. It lays waste the dwelling-place of God, as well as of

man, and introduces and propagates opinions and practices as much against Heaven as against earth, and erects a deity that delights in nothing but cruelty and blood."

"Are we pleased with the enlarged commerce and society of large and opulent cities, or with the retired pleasures of the country? Do we love stately palaces, and noble houses, or take delight in pleasant groves and woods, or fruitful gardens? All this we owe to peace; and the dissolution of peace disfigures all this beauty, and in a short time covers and buries all this order and delight in ruin and rubbish."

"Finally, have we any content, satisfaction and joy in the conversation of each other, or in the knowledge and understanding of those arts and sciences which more adorn mankind than buildings and plantations do the fields and grounds on which they stand? Even this is the blessed effect and legacy of peace. War lays our natures and manners as waste as our gardens and our habitations; and we can as easily preserve the beauty of the one, as the integrity of the other, under the cursed jurisdiction of drums and trumpets."

"That men should kill one another for want of somewhat else to do, seems to be so horrible to humanity, that there needs no divinity to control it. They who allow no war to be lawful, have consulted both nature and religion much better than they who think it may be entered into to comply with the ambition, covetousness or revenge of the greatest princes and monarchs upon earth; as if God had inhibited only single murders, and left mankind to be massacred according to the humor and appetite of unjust and unreasonable men."

"It is no answer, to say that this universal suffering, and even the desolation that attends it, are the inevitable consequences of war, however warrantably soever entered into, but rather an argument that no war can warrantably be entered into. It may be, upon a strict survey and disquisition into the elements and injunctions of the Christian religion, that no war will be found justifiable; and, at all events, what can we think of most of those wars which for some hundreds of years have infested the world, so much to the dishonor of Christianity, and in which the lives of more men have been lost than might have served to have driven infidelity out of the world, and to have peopled all those parts which yet remain without inhabitants? Can we believe that all those lives are forgotten, and that no account shall be rendered of them?"

"They who are the cause and authors of any war that can

justly and safely be avoided, have great reason to fear that they shall be accountable before the supreme Judge for all the rapine and devastation, all the ruin and damage, as well as the blood, that is the consequence of that war. We may piously believe, that all the princes of the world who have wantonly obliged their subjects to serve them in a war by which millions of men have been exposed to slaughter, fire and famine, will sooner find remission for all the other sins they have committed, than for that obstinate outrage against the life of man, and the murders which have been committed by their authority.”*

THE WICKEDNESS OF WAR.†

BY REV. HOWARD MALCOM, PRESIDENT OF GEORGETOWN COLLEGE, KENTUCKY.

The war spirit is so wrought into the texture of governments, and the habits of national thinking, and even into our very festivals and pomps, that its occasional recurrence is deemed a matter of unavoidable necessity. Even the friends of man’s highest welfare seem to regard a general pacification of the world as a mere Utopian scheme, and choose to lend their energies and prayers to objects which seem of more probable attainment. This apathy and incredulity are to be overcome only by free discussion and forcible appeals.

It is not our intention to enter upon the question, on which good men may differ in opinion, whether defensive war may in any case be justified, nor upon a regular discussion of the general subject; but merely to offer a few thoughts to show how utterly at variance the *spirit* of war is with truth and righteousness.

1. *It contradicts the genius and intention of Christianity.*

Christianity requires us to seek to amend the condition of man. But war cannot do this. The world is no better for all the wars of five thousand years. Christianity, if it prevailed, would make the earth a paradise. War, where it prevails, makes it a slaughter-house, a den of thieves, a brothel, a hell. Christianity cancels the laws of retalia-

* Clarendon’s Essays, XX, XXI, pp. 236—253.

† This article, though written for our Society, was published several years ago in that able and excellent quarterly, the Christian Review. We immediately prepared a notice of it, and marked nearly the whole for insertion in our pages; but, being excluded then by excess of other matter, and subsequently published in a number of our religious papers, we have delayed copying it, in the hope of being able long ere this to stereotype it as one of our tracts. Will not some friend give us twenty or thirty dollars for this purpose?—Ed.